

Contra Costa County



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Fire Protection District

Fire Chief
KEITH RICHTER

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE Docket 02-55

Dear Ms. Dortch

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District would like to express its support for the "Consensus Plan" filed by public safety organizations, private wireless organizations, and Nextel, in the above-reference proceeding regarding interference to 800 MHz public safety systems

Our District provides fire protection and Emergency Medical Services for most of Contra Costa County, located across the Bay from San Francisco and just north of Oakland/Alameda County. We are surrounded by agencies utilizing 800 MHz trunked radio systems. Our County currently utilizes a mix of Lowband, VHF, UHF, UHF T-Band, and 800 MHz conventional channels. It is the County's intention to migrate to a 700 MHz trunked system as soon as the spectrum becomes available in 2007.

We are well aware of the problems our neighboring agencies are having with interference to their 800 MHz systems. Although we are not directly impacted by this particular problem, we have followed the discussion since its inception and listened with empathy for the agencies that have had to deal with this on a daily basis. This issue is a firefighter and law enforcement safety issue that must be addressed rapidly and decisively.

It is imperative that the Commission decides favorably for the "Consensus Plan" as it is the most logical, realistic solution to the Nextel interference problems. In addition, it is the only solution that will clean up the unsatisfactory channel usage plan in the 800 MHz spectrum.

The Commission should not allow this short window of opportunity to pass by without making a positive investment in the future of the 800 MHz band.

Respectfully submitted,

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

By Keith B. Richter
Keith B. Richter, Fire Chief
July 30, 2003

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